Environmental Data Studies

Status:	Project Manager:
In Progress	Janet Cushing

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to develop an Ecosystem Restoration database integrated within an existing Corps database. Ecosystem restoration projects are an important part of the Planning Division in every U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) district across the United States. Currently, there is no single database used to relate, track and view all of the past and present environmental restoration (ER) projects.

Calls for environmental data from the Civil Works Program by OMB and CEQ and criticism of mitigation progress (American Rivers, based on GAO Report 02-574) prompted the need for a reliable resource for quick, effective reporting. This resource was initially developed in 2001-2002 as the Environmental Database, but by 2005, it became clear that a new database structure was needed. While the database would concentrate on providing ecosystem restoration program management data, components to address environmental compliance, data linking and conformance to the Corps' corporate-data and spatial standards also needed consideration.

Objective: The objective of this project is to develop an ecosystem restoration database that can be used to track progress on Corps ecosystem restoration projects and report on such progress to Congress, Office of Management and Budget and other partners.

Benefits: Benefits of this project include a: 1) More effective and efficient reporting of the Corps' ecosystem restoration efforts; 2) Standardized way for project managers and technical leads to input ecosystem restoration project data into a user-friendly database, which will facilitate information sharing within the Corps through the Ecosystem Restoration Gateway; and 3) Method to contribute information to the National Estuary Restoration Inventory database, as an active partner with NOAA.

Progress: FY2009: Prototype A of the database was developed and sent to the PDT for testing. Following a workshop in May 2009, comments and tasks were compiled to proceed with the development of Prototype B. By the end of FY2009, a beta version of Prototype B will be developed and tested by the PDT. In addition, a draft user manual will be written that will enable users to input information into the database.

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